

In the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A retractable spout assembly for application to the neck of a bottle to be closed by a cap, comprising:

a sleeve-like housing fixedly receivable within the bottle neck;

a spout movable within said housing from a retracted position, when the housing is fixed within the bottle neck and the bottle neck closed by the cap, to an extended position projecting outwardly of the housing and the bottle neck for pouring out contents of the bottle;

and an air-return passageway, defined by a fixed passageway extending through said housing, for returning air into the bottle as contents therefrom are poured out through said spout;

said spout being movable with respect to said housing and said air-return passageway such that the air-return passageway does not change its position with respect to said housing during the extension and retraction of the spout.

2. (Original) The retractable spout assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said air-return passageway includes a tube fixed at its inner end with respect to said housing and having an outer end telescopingly movable within a passageway in said spout.

3. (Original) The retractable spout assembly according to Claim 2, wherein said latter passageway is a recess formed in the outer surface of said spout and of complementary configuration as said tube such that said tube also guides the spout when moving to its retracted and extended positions.

4. (Original) The retractable spout assembly according to Claim 2, wherein said tube is fixedly carried by a ring located at the inner end of said housing.

5. (Original) The retractable spout assembly according to Claim 4, wherein said assembly further includes a coil spring interposed between said ring and said spout and biasing said spout to its extended position.

6. (Original) The retractable spout assembly according to Claim 5, wherein the inner side of said ring facing said spout is rounded to facilitate insertion of said ring into the inner end of said housing; the outer side of said ring facing away from the spout being formed with a right-angle annular shoulder engageable with the inner surface of the inner side of the housing to prevent movement of said ring outwardly from said housing.

7. (Original) The retractable spout assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said housing is formed with at least one hole extending radially therethrough adjacent the inner end of the housing to enable emptying substantially the complete contents of the bottle.

8. (Original) The retractable spout assembly according to Claim 7, wherein the outer surface of the outer end of said housing is formed with a plurality of annular ribs axially-spaced from each other and having an outer diameter substantially equal to the inner diameter of the bottle neck for fixing the housing within the bottle neck; said housing being formed with at least one of said radially-extending holes on each of the two opposite sides of the housing between said plurality of annular ribs and the inner end of the housing.

9. (Original) The retractable spout assembly according to Claim 8, wherein at least one of said plurality of annular ribs is of a tapered cross-section at its outer tip in the direction such as to facilitate the insertion of the housing into the bottle neck, but to resist the removal of the housing from the bottle neck without breaking the respective rib.

10. (Original) The retractable spout assembly according to Claim 1, wherein the outer surface of the spout is tapered to decrease its diameter towards its outer end; and wherein the outer end of said housing is formed with an outwardly-extending annular flange configured to define an annular channel for catching drippings of the spout, and for returning said drippings into the interior of the bottle when the spout is moved to its retracted position.

11. (Original) The retractable spout assembly according to Claim 1, wherein the outer end of said housing is formed with a depending annular wall engageable by the outer surface of the spout in the extended position of the spout to form a seal therewith.

12. (Original) The retractable spout assembly according to Claim 11, wherein said assembly further comprises a connector disc to be fixed within the cap and having a depending annular stem located to be received between said sleeve and the outer surface of the spout when the cap is applied to the bottle neck to close the bottle and to move the spout to its retracted position.

13. (Original) The retractable spout assembly according to Claim 12, wherein said housing includes, at its outer end, a depending annular wall which is deformable when engaged by the outer surface of said annular stem of the connector disc when the cap is applied to close the bottle neck, said deformable annular wall also being engageable by the spout to seal the spout in the extended position of the spout when the cap has been removed.

14. (Original) The retractable spout assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said air-return passageway is formed in said housing and extends longitudinally through a wall of said housing.

15. (Currently amended) A retractable spout assembly for application to the neck of a bottle, comprising:

a sleeve-like housing fixedly receivable within the bottle neck;

a spout movable within said housing from a retracted position, when the housing is fixed within the bottle neck, to an extended position projecting outwardly of the housing and the bottle neck for pouring out contents of the bottle;

an air-return passageway for returning air into the bottle when contents therefrom are being poured out through said spout;

a cap for closing the bottle neck;

and a connector within said cap for retaining said housing, spout and air passageway within said cap, and thereby enabling the latter elements to be applied with the cap to the bottle neck;-

the outer surface of the outer end of said housing being formed with a plurality of annular ribs axially-spaced from each other and having an outer diameter substantially equal to the inner diameter of the bottle neck for fixing the housing within the bottle neck;

said housing being formed with a plurality of radially-extending holes between said plurality of annular ribs and the inner end of the housing to enable emptying substantially the complete contents of the bottle.

16. (Original) The retractable spout assembly according to Claim 15, wherein said connector is a disc which also serves as an inner liner for the cap, and which is formed with an annular depending stem insertable between said housing and said spout for retaining the housing, spout and air passageway with said cap.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently amended) A retractable spout assembly for application to the neck of a bottle to be closed by a cap, comprising:

a sleeve-like housing fixedly receivable within the bottle neck;

a spout movable within said housing from a retracted position, when the housing is fixed within the bottle neck and the bottle neck closed by the cap, to an extended position projecting outwardly of the housing and the bottle neck for pouring out contents of the bottle;

and an air-return passageway for returning air into the bottle when contents therefrom are being poured out through said spout;

the outer surface of the spout being tapered such as to decrease its diameter towards its outer end; the outer end of said housing being formed with an outwardly-extending annular flange configured to define an annular channel for catching drippings of the spout, and for returning said drippings into the interior of the bottle when the spout is moved to its retracted position;

the outer end of said housing being formed with a depending annular wall engageable by the outer surface of the spout in the extended position of the spout to form a seal therewith; and

a connector disc fixed within the cap and having a depending annular stem located to be received between said depending annular wall of the sleeve and the outer surface of the spout, when the cap is applied to the bottle neck to close the bottle and to move the spout to its retracted position.

19–20. (Cancelled)